

Texas Veterans Voice

A PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD ☆ JERRY PATTERSON, CHAIRMAN

WINTER 2012
texasveterans.com



SERVING TEXAS VETERANS

GENERAL INFORMATION

800.252.VETS (8387)
512.463.5060

VETERANS HOMES

Ussery-Roan

Amarillo, Texas
806.322.VETS (8387)

Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez

Big Spring, Texas
432.268.VETS (8387)

Clyde W. Cosper

Bonham, Texas
903.640.VETS (8387)

Ambrosio Guillen

El Paso, Texas
915.751.0967

Frank M. Tejeda

Floresville, Texas
830.216.9456

Alfredo Gonzalez

McAllen, Texas
956.682.4224

William R. Courtney

Temple, Texas
254.791.8280

Watkins-Logan

Tyler, Texas
903.617.6150

VETERANS CEMETERIES

Central Texas

State Veterans Cemetery
Killeen, Texas
254.616.1770

Coastal Bend

State Veterans Cemetery
Corpus Christi, Texas
361.248.4830

Rio Grande Valley

State Veterans Cemetery
Mission, Texas
956.583.7227

Texas State Veterans Cemetery

at Abilene
Abilene, Texas
325.673.4446

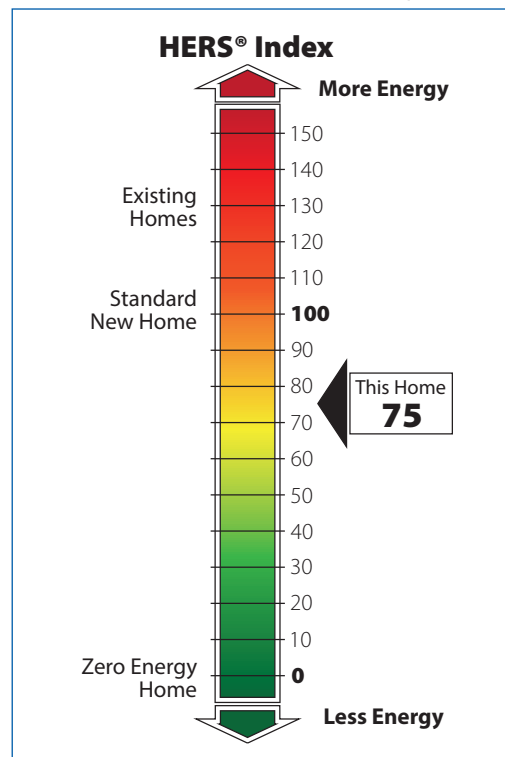
VLB Adds Flexibility to New Home Energy Efficiency Requirements

The Texas Veterans Land Board (VLB) has long promoted the benefit that veterans and their families receive from owning energy-efficient homes. Homes built with energy-saving construction materials and techniques have

STAR® rated for energy efficiency. ENERGY STAR® is a federal program run by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to promote energy efficient homes and appliances. During 2011, almost half of all homes built in Texas received an ENERGY STAR® rating according to statistics from the EPA and National Association of Home Builders.

The VLB, in an effort to make its requirement more flexible, recently amended its program requirement so that a new home that achieves a Home Energy Rating System (HERS) index of 75 or less may also qualify for funding under VHAP. This translates to Texas veterans now having more choices in the new homes they can finance through the VLB.

Energy efficient choices can save families about a third on their energy bills without sacrificing features, style or comfort. ☆



An example of a Home Energy Rating System (HERS) index of 75 or less that allows homes to qualify for funding under VHAP.

lower utility bills and sell for more than comparable homes without the efficiency improvements. Since March 2005, the VLB has required new homes financed through its Veterans Housing Assistance Program (VHAP) to be ENERGY

PAY LOAN SERVICES FEES ONLINE!

Loan applicants now have the option to pay home improvement and land loan service fees online through the Texas Veterans Land Board (VLB) website, which will speed up the loan process. Eligible service fees include the appraisal, contract service, deed, flood certification, and title search fees, which can be paid online using a credit card or checking/savings account. A nominal convenience fee of 2.75 percent plus 25 cents will be added to the online fee payments.

To access the online payment option, go to texasveterans.com.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

ARMED FORCES BOWL SET FOR DEC. 29 ☆ PAGE 2

HAPPENINGS IN THE HOMES ☆ PAGE 3

TRACTOR SUPPLY STORES TO PROMOTE VLB ☆ PAGE 4

MARKETING PUSH FOR FORFEITED LAND SEES SUCCESS; QUARTERLY LAND AUCTIONS PLANNED ☆ PAGE 4

A Message from the Chairman

BY VETERANS LAND BOARD CHAIRMAN JERRY PATTERSON



Fellow Veterans:

This edition of *Veterans Voice* has an update on the VLB's forfeited land sales, which have helped more than 150 Texans obtain land since July 2011. Starting in 2013, veterans-only, sealed-bid forfeited land sales will be held quarterly instead of twice a year.

An article about less stringent energy requirements for VLB home loans describes new, more flexible stan-

dards that give veterans more choices. Under the new standards, a Home Energy Rating System index of 75 or less may also qualify for a VLB home loan.

Die-hard football fans can find all the information they need in

a story about the upcoming 10th annual Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl, which will air on ESPN on Dec. 29. The bowl game will be held at Amon G. Carter Stadium in Fort Worth.

Also inside this issue is an article about a VLB marketing campaign featuring posters of R. Lee "Gunny" Erme promoting VLB home, land and home improvement loans. The posters will be placed on community bulletin boards at more than 130 Tractor Supply Company stores in Texas.

This *Veterans Voice* includes a rundown of the numerous happenings in Texas State Veterans Homes since the last edition. For additional information on Texas State Veterans Homes and Cemeteries, as well as low-cost home, land and home improvement loans, please call 800.252.VETS (8387) or visit our website at texasveterans.com. Or, find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/TXVLB](https://www.facebook.com/TXVLB).



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Armed Forces Bowl Set for Dec. 29

Mark your calendars for a great college football bowl game with a military and veteran theme.

The nationally broadcast 10th annual Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl, owned and operated by ESPN Regional Television, will air on ESPN at 10:45 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 29 from Amon G. Carter Stadium in Fort Worth, Texas.

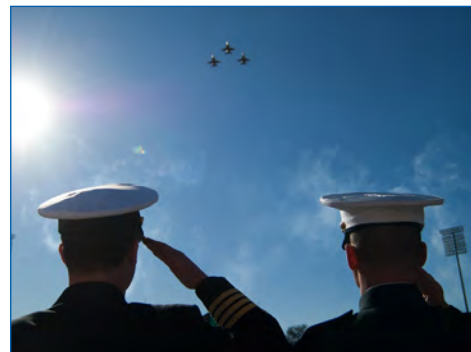
The post-season football game returns to Amon G. Carter Stadium after being played the past two seasons at Gerald J. Ford Stadium in Dallas. Renovations to Amon G. Carter Stadium costing \$164 million were announced in August 2010 and construction began immediately following the 2010 regular season. Capacity for the renovated stadium now stands at 45,000.

Bell Helicopter, the Fort Worth-based international company, has been the title sponsor of the Armed Forces Bowl since 2006. Colonial Savings, a network of consumer and commercial banks in the North Central Texas region, is also an official sponsor of the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl for the 2012 postseason bowl game. This marks the first year the two entities are teaming up. A Colonial Savings company, Colonial National Mortgage, is a participating lender in the VLB's Veterans Housing Assistance Program.

More than a bowl game, the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl has featured a military theme since 2006. Patriotic overtones recognizing all five branches of the military are prevalent throughout the game. Past Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowls have



Military personnel thank wounded warriors at last year's Armed Forces Bowl.



Armed forces members salute during a flyover prior to last year's Armed Forces Bowl.

included displays of military hardware, flyovers, demonstrations by several of the military's top skydiving teams, on-field induction ceremonies and military bands and honor guards. Additionally, several wounded warriors will be awarded custom homes and the annual Great American Patriot Award will be presented by Armed Forces Insurance.

For more information and tickets, visit armedforcesbowl.com. ☆

Happenings in the Homes

Amarillo Home Celebrates Five Years

The Ussery-Roan Texas State Veterans Home in Amarillo celebrated five years of service in the Texas Panhandle on Sept. 12.



Commissioner Jerry Patterson speaks to residents and family members during the 5-year anniversary celebration.

Residents, family members, staff, veterans and those who support veterans were on hand for the day's events.

Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson, Chairman of the Veterans Land Board, served as the keynote speaker. Refreshments and a tour of the home followed shortly after his speech.

Texas State Veterans Homes are made possible through a unique partnership between the VLB and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Each home provides skilled long-term nursing care, comprehensive rehabilitation programs, special diets, recreational activities, social services and a library. Homes also offer certified, secured Alzheimer's units with secured outdoor courtyards. VLB Veterans Homes can be found in eight locations across the state. ☆

Amarillo Raises \$4,252 in Walk to End Alzheimer's

Residents, family and staff members of the Ussery-Roan Texas State Veterans Home raised \$4,252 in the Walk to End Alzheimer's event held on Sept. 9 at Sam Houston Park in Amarillo.



Residents, staff, and family members walked to raise over \$4K in the Walk to End Alzheimer's in September.

"The family of one of our residents was having a wedding the afternoon of the walk, and the entire family came out with the resident to participate in the walk," said Chris Crabtree, Onsite Representative for the veterans home. "That family helped raise 90 percent of the total amount."

The event was organized by a local chapter of the national Alzheimer's Association in an effort to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. Held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide, this event calls on participants of all ages and abilities to work together to end Alzheimer's disease, the nation's sixth-leading cause of death. ☆

DAR Dedicates Memorial Garden to Tyler Veterans

The Mary Tyler Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution dedicated a Memorial Garden it built for the Watkins-Logan

Texas State Veterans Home on Sept. 28.

The Memorial Garden will serve as a serene area for residents of the home to enjoy. Filled with plants that attract butterflies, the garden adds natural beauty for residents to enjoy. Additional plants, benches and garden items donated by the public are welcome.

Kevin Warren, Deputy Commissioner for the Veterans Homes and Cemeteries Program, accepted the gift on behalf of the Veterans Land Board. ☆



The Memorial Garden at the Tyler home.

Classic Car Show Comes to Amarillo Home



Residents enjoyed nearly 60 classic cars during the car show.

Residents at the Ussery-Roan Texas State Veterans Home recently geared up for a visit by the Amarillo Corvette Club. Roy Ehly, resident, organized the event. Residents, staff, family and the community enjoyed viewing nearly 60 cars. ☆

Veterans Motorcycle Club Visits TSVH in Floresville

The Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association chapters 23-3 of San Antonio, 23-8 of Beeville and 23-7 of Austin visited residents of the Frank M. Tejada Texas State Veterans Home in Floresville on Sept. 22. Residents enjoyed viewing the motorcycles on display and eating lunch with the visiting members. ☆

Welcome Home Event Benefits Tyler's TSVH

When people are passionate about a cause, wonderful things can happen. Linda Rudd, who owns Striping Technology in Tyler, and employee Steve Hellmuth are passionate about giving Vietnam Veterans the welcome home they deserve.

Together they organized the event and concert, "Welcome Home: A Tribute to Vietnam Vets" in Tyler from October 5-6, and then presented a \$10,000 sponsorship check to the Watkins-Logan Texas State Veterans Home in Tyler.

The event took place at Villa di Felicita the night before this year's annual Country for our Country benefit concert at the same location. The concert featured the traveling Vietnam Wall, live music by Kayla Conn and Nick Verzosa and the Noble Union Band, the father of Miranda Lambert, Rick Lambert, and a keynote speech from Maj. Gen. Red Brown. Kevin Warren, Deputy Commissioner, accepted the donation on behalf of the Veterans Homes and Cemeteries Program at the VLB. ☆

STAY IN TOUCH ONLINE!



facebook.com/txvib

Be sure to visit our Facebook page and our website for VLB loan rates, current news and photos, and event information. Let us know what you think!



Tractor Supply Stores to Promote VLB

The VLB will soon have a small presence in Tractor Supply stores across the state of Texas.

An iconic brand, Tractor Supply Company is the largest retail farm and ranch store chain in America. The company serves full- and part-time farmers and ranchers, hobby farmers, rural homeowners and contractors. It operates more than 1,130 stores in 45 states, including more than 130 stores in Texas.

Soon, VLB posters featuring R. Lee "Gunny" Ermey promoting VLB home, land and home improvement loans will be posted on community bulletin boards at all of the company's Texas stores.

The VLB marketing and outreach team anticipates the posters leading to community events across the state.

"This type of partnership idea is new to the VLB, but we've been actively working to increase awareness of the benefits we offer to veterans, and are embracing new concepts and strategies to do that," said Paul Moore, Executive Secretary of the VLB. ☆

An example of the "Gunny" poster.

Marketing Push for Forfeited Land Sees Success; Quarterly Land Auctions Planned

Thanks to expanded marketing efforts by the Texas Veterans Land Board (VLB), 153 Texas veterans and civilians have taken advantage of forfeited land sales since July 2011. An estimated 70 percent of all forfeited tracts were sold to Texas veterans at one of the VLB's bi-annual sealed bid sales or to the general public (including veterans) in the Type II program.

The VLB promoted its forfeited land sales during the spring of 2012 through television and radio ads, print ads in Texas Monthly, sale notices on Craigslist, for sale signs and grass-roots efforts.

In an effort to further boost its forfeited land sales, the VLB plans to hold veterans-only, sealed-bid sales

quarterly rather than only twice a year beginning in 2013.

Learn more about the VLB's forfeited land sales [online](#). ☆



Just one of the many beautiful pieces of land available for sale by the Texas VLB.

2013 Benefit Fairs

Waco

March 16

Plano

April 6

Longview

June 29

San Antonio

August 10

Humble

August 24

Corpus Christi

September 21

McAllen

October 12

Free "come and go" benefits fairs to showcase resources available to Texas veterans!

Veterans Voice Newsletter

The *Veterans Voice* is a free, electronic quarterly publication of the Texas Veterans Land Board.

Anyone can sign up to receive *Veterans Voice* by going to <http://www.glo.texas.gov/cf/newsletter-signup>.

Additionally, veterans can register with the VLB to receive other program information and updates at

<https://s3.glo.texas.gov/veteran-registration/index.cfm>.